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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2130  
INFO RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4534  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 4788  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 9902  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 2775  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4186  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 9938  
RUEHG/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1208  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAAIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001702

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SUBJECT: TIBETAN REFUGEE UPDATE, JUNE 28

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Nick Dean. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) Douglas DiSalvo, Associate Protection Officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told Emboff that there were currently 99 Tibetan refugees at the Tibetan Refugee Center (TRC). Of those, 41 were scheduled to depart Kathmandu for India on June 29 with exit permits issued by the Government of Nepal (GON).

¶2. (C) According to DiSalvo, there are three Tibetans at Dilli Bazaar jail in Kathmandu. The GON detained them, along with six other Tibetans who were subsequently released, at the Thankot checkpoint (the western entrance to the Kathmandu Valley) while they were returning from India to Tibet for being present in Nepal without proper travel documents. The other six Tibetans carried Indian residency cards and were fined and deported to India immediately. The three detained Tibetans held only Special Entry Permits used to enter India earlier in the year with the help of UNHCR. DiSalvo told us that the three had intended to return to Tibet until they were arrested and faced "official" handover to China. The TRC arranged donations to pay their fines, and will coordinate with the GON for deportation to India rather than China. DiSalvo reported that if there is any hesitation on the part of the GON to deport to India, UNHCR will intervene as necessary.

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